

1-22. (CANCELED)

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A fruit coring device comprising:

a handle; and

a tubular member having first and second opposed ends with the tubular member having an interior cavity and defining a longitudinal axis extending longitudinally through a center of the tubular member, the handle being connected adjacent the first end of the tubular member and the second end of the tubular member defining a substantially circular and planar member cutting edge; and

at least one blade having a planar blade cutting edge, the at least one blade being formed by a cut formed in a sidewall of the tubular member and the cut sidewall being bent inward into the interior cavity of the tubular member to form the at least one blade such that an opposite end of the at least one blade extends at least about half way toward the longitudinal axis but remains free and unsupported within the interior cavity, and the planar blade cutting edge lies substantially in a plane defined by the substantially circular and planar member cutting edge.

24-27. (CANCELED)

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fruit coring device according to claim 24, wherein a substantially radially inwardly facing free end of the at least one blade is spaced from the longitudinal axis.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED-) A fruit coring device comprising:

a handle; and

a tubular member having first and second opposed ends with the tubular member having an interior cavity and defining a longitudinal axis extending longitudinally through a center of the tubular member, the handle being connect adjacent the first end of the tubular member and the second end of the tubular member defining a substantially circular and planar member cutting edge; and

opposed first and second blades each having a planar blade cutting edge, each of the first and the second blades being formed by a cut formed in a sidewall of the tubular member with the cut sidewall being bent inward into the interior cavity of the tubular member to form respectively the first and the second blades such that an opposite free end of the first and the second blades extends at least about half way toward the longitudinal axis but remains

free and unsupported within the interior cavity, and the planar blade cutting edge of the first ←
 and the second blades lie substantially in a plane defined by the substantially circular and ←
planar member cutting edge. ←

30-33. (CANCELED)

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fruit coring device according to claim 29, wherein a substantially radially inwardly facing free end of each of the first and the second blades is spaced from the longitudinal axis.

35-36. (CANCELED)

37. (NEW) A cylindrical vegetable extraction or fruit coring device comprising:

a tubular cutting member having a first end with a circular cutting edge defining a plane extending substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the tubular cutting member;

a handle connected to adjacent a second opposed end of the tubular cutting member to facilitate manipulation and rotation of the tubular cutting member about its longitudinal axis;

a depth limiting feature being supported adjacent the handle and spaced from the circular cutting edge for limiting a penetrating depth of the coring device into a desired fruit; and

at least one inwardly directed protrusion having a sufficient height and length, the inwardly directed protrusion having a cutting edge lying substantially in the plane defined by the circular cutting edge, and the at least one inwardly directed protrusion effecting a rotary shearing action, upon rotation of the tubular cutting member about the longitudinal axis, along the plane which assist with separating a core from the desired fruit such that a cylindrical opening is formed in the desired fruit with a bottom of the cylindrical opening being substantially planar.

38. (NEW) The coring device according to claim 37, wherein the depth limiting feature is formed integrated to the handle for limiting insertion of the coring device into the fruit.

39. (NEW) The coring device according to claim 37 wherein the depth limiting feature is a limiting plate located opposite the cutting edge and adjacent the handle of the device.

40. (NEW) The coring device according to claim 37, wherein except for the inwardly directed protrusion, an interior space of the tubular cutting member is devoid of any other feature so as to enable continuous feed with same direction core ejection.

41. (NEW) The coring device according to claim 37, wherein the inwardly directed protrusion is formed by a portion of the tubular cutting member being bent inwardly toward the longitudinal axis.

42. (NEW) The coring device according to claim 37, wherein the inwardly directed protrusion is permanently attached to the tubular cutting member.

43. (NEW) The coring device according to claim 37, wherein the tubular cutting member has an elongate recess or cutout which facilitates channeling air into the fruit upon during removal of the core from the fruit.

44. (NEW) The coring device according to claim 37, wherein an inwardly facing edge of tubular cutting member is sufficiently sharpened to assist with gripping and securely retaining the core within the tubular cutting member during removal of the core.

45. (NEW) The coring device according to claim 37, wherein the tubular cutting member is sufficiently thin so as to form the cutting edge which is sufficiently sharp.

46. (NEW) The coring device according to claim 37, wherein the inwardly directed protrusion terminates adjacent the longitudinal axis of the tubular cutting member so as to assist with initial plunging of the coring device into the desired fruit.